

Message Text

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EVALUATION OF STAG WILLIAM GRIFFITH

E.O. 11652 N/A

SUB: STAG WILLIAM GRIFFITH

1. WILLIAM GRIFFITH IN TWO PERFORMANCES IN KARACHI, VTR ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND AN ADDRESS ON THE ENERGY CRISIS BEFORE A DINNER MEETING OF EIGHTY INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS, CAME ACROSS AS A CANDID AND INCISIVE ANALYST OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. ALTHOUGH NOT A SPELL-BINDING SPEAKER, HIS WIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND MATTER-OF-FACT MANNER LEND STRONG CREDIBILITY TO HIS INTERPRETATIONS.

2. GRIFFITH'S VTR CONSISTED OF HIS PREPARED TALK ON THE REASONS FOR SOVIET DETENTE -- A LUCID PERSPECTIVE UPON THE COLD WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH. TAPE SHOULD PROVE USEFUL WITH PRIMARY ACADEMIC AND RESEARCHER AUDIENCE GROUPS. HIS REVIEW OF THE SOVIETS AWARENESS OF THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL GAP AS A STIMULUS TO DETENTE IS PARTICULARLY TELLING.

3. IN TALK BEFORE INAUGURAL DINNER OF SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT GRIFFITH SAW INDIA AND BANGLADESH AS THE SOUTH ASIAN

COUNTRIES WORST HIT BY THE ENERGY CRISIS, WITH PAKISTAN LESS BADLY
AFFECTED. FORECAST THAT THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WOULD
DISCOURAGE U.S. AND CANADIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIA, BUT
WOULD NOT COMPLETELY END IT, WITH HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES INSURING
ITS CONTINUANCE IN A REDUCED SCALE. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT
THE AMERICAN POLITICAL WILL ON BOTH THE RIGHT AND LEFT HAD DECLINED
TO RESPOND MASSIVELY TO THE WORLD FOOD AND FERTILIZER CRISIS, AND
THAT FOREIGN AID HAD BECOME "EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR."

4. BEFORE SID, GRIFFITH ALSO EXPRESSED FEAR OF A WORLDWIDE FOOD
CRISIS BECAUSE OF DROUGHT IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, NOTING ALSO RECENT
DROUGHT IN THE U.S. IN CONCLUSION, GRIFFITH CALLED FOR COORDINATED
INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO AVERT MAJOR DISASTER FOR POOR COUNTRIES
INTER ALIA BY RECYCLING SURPLUE FUNDS OF OIL-RICH STATES.

5. FYI, GRIFFITH TAKES PRIDE IN FACT THAT HE IS "NOT A ONE-COUNTRY
MAN," SAYS THAT HE DOES NOT CARRY FAVOR WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS
IN ORDER TO INSURE ENTRY VISAS, A COMPULSION THAT IN HIS OPINION
INHIBITS SOME AMERICAN SPECIALISTS IN OVERSEAS AREAS.

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